Good evening and thank you all for coming.

I think it is fair to say that over the last 8 years we have put financial stability and quality of life for our residents among our highest priorities and in 2015 it is our intent to continue that policy.

Controlling spending results in stable municipal taxes - Our record in this is the best in the state and its importance extends beyond the immediate relief to our property owners. As the last few years have shown, you never know when calamity will hit you, whether it is the sudden blow of a Hurricane Sandy or the slow erosion and corrosion caused by the costly mandates dreamed up by the majority party in Trenton.

Maintaining a strong financial position allows you to weather those storms, both literal and figurative. Our budget in 2015 will contain provisions to continue this.

In addition, I would note that we are now over 30 years out from the major expansion to the town caused by the arrival of the interstates, AT&T, etc. The infrastructure put in place in the 1980s - roads, parks, sewers - now needs upgrading and replacement. We are committed to putting together capital spending plans to allow for this with minimum impact on both the taxpayer and the rate payer.

The passing of the voter referendum in November has us working on plans to add a turf field to the township's recreational facilities in the coming year. It will be built without taking out debt, and we will design it with emphasis on safety and minimal environmental impact. Expect to hear details on this project soon.

We are entering the 6th year of our pesticide-free parks program and we just received Silver Certification from Sustainable Jersey. Our residents have let us know that they like a clean and green community and we will continue those programs as well.

Thanks to all our township staff for their efforts at holding costs while still delivering great customer service to our residents. They are a fantastic group of people. Let me recognize our administrator, Bruce McArthur, and our clerk, Denise Szabo.

One of the keys to financial stability is a vibrant community of volunteers. I want to thank all of the board, commission and committee members here tonight and at home for their willingness to donate time and effort to our town. Likewise, I give a huge thank-you to our first responders with Basking Ridge Fire & Rescue, Liberty Corner Fire Company and Liberty Corner Rescue. Their contributions are immeasurable, they are professionals at every level, although they serve us all without pay. Remember that when they ask for contributions to enable them to continue to serve.

Finally, thank you to my colleagues here on the dais for their support and their dedication. We get to have a little fun now and again but at the end of the day we are here to serve the township and its residents. It is a privilege to do so.

There will be a get-together after this meeting at the Liberty Corner Fire House and all of you are welcome to stop by and enjoy some food, drink and conversation.

Have a great New Year, God bless America. Thank you.